

Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20554

April 19, 1999

RE: CC Docket No. 99-68

To Whom It May Concern:

I felt compelled to write this letter due to my direct involvement with the subject matter at hand. It has recently been brought to my attention that the FCC has claimed jurisdiction over Internet connections between competing local telephone companies, and although per-minute access charges have been prohibited thus far, the FCC has begun a procedure to consider this issue. I was asked to reference CC Docket No. 99-68. This letter is written for the purpose of voicing my sincere concern and lack of support for even the slightest consideration of this potential policy.

To institute any per-minute charges for accessing the Internet, be it long distance or local, is completely illogical, irrational, and unreasonable. To institute this particular policy would negate the entire purpose of the Internet. The Internet is quickly bringing the entire world together at alarming rates. It is a mass communication and information revolution that can be utilized to cover a wide variety of needs spanning from day-to-day personal use, educational needs, to organizing, running, and maintaining web-based businesses. The best part of all this is that it is accessible to everyone, not just those in the upper echelon of society. This "information revolution" should be available to everyone especially in today's rapidly growing society. Technology is changing the way we live every day, and it would be extremely harmful and devastating to society as a whole if some people could not access this powerful tool at very little cost.

We live in America; the greatest, freest, country in the world, and everyone should be guaranteed a shot at a better life, which is exactly what the Internet represents to me. You see, I am in my mid 20's, and I now own and operate a web-based business. Without this opportunity I would have been stuck in the same rat race and rut that 95% of the population is stuck in with no way out. My clients and independent business owners derive from all walks of life, from every corner of the world, and all of them possess different degrees of wealth, ranging from those with very limited means to those who are more than well off. The Internet is a personal and business related mediation device in which we may all communicate in a single, united realm, at very fair prices. To put the Internet out of reach to even one of my cohorts would concern me deeply, and would never go unnoticed. If a policy is passed that would incur per-minute rates to access the Internet, I firmly believe that you will encounter much stronger opposition than you realize. The Internet is not a tool that should be utilized for government profit or restricted by governmental regulations.

I am a young entrepreneur strongly dedicated to and involved in the free enterprise system of this country, and assessing per-minute rates to access the Internet would restrict a large portion of society from achieving their rightful god given dreams to be more than average. I am very strong in my convictions to oppose these regulations and charges, and I am in touch with many others who feel the same way. Many others and myself have been in contact with our State Representatives, and according to the reply letters we received, there are thousands of others who feel the same way we do. I would like to thank you very much for taking the time to read and understand my views and opinions, and at the same time I would strongly encourage anyone involved with instituting these policies to take a long, hard look at the damaging effects this will produce. Government is here for the betterment of society, not the opposite.

Respectfully,



Matthew Saltern

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